

State Oral Health Program

Purpose: The MSDH State Oral Health Program strives to protect and promote oral health of all Mississippians.

Program Goals and Accomplishments:

- **Assess oral health status and needs so that problems can be identified and addressed.**
 - **Survey of Oral Health in Head Start Children** – A survey of oral health in Head Start children ages 3-5 years was completed during the 2007-2008 school year. The results were:
 - 41% of Head Start children have *untreated* dental decay (cavities) and need dental care.
 - Over 7% of Head Start children need **urgent** dental care.
 - Overall, 56% of all Head Start children in Mississippi have experience with tooth decay.
 - **Survey of Third-Grade Children in Public Schools** – The 2009-2010 statewide survey of third graders will be completed by March 2010. Results from the 2004-2005 school-year were:
 - 69% of third-grade children have experience with tooth decay.
 - 39% have *untreated* tooth decay (cavities).
 - Only 26% of third-grade children have preventive dental sealants on permanent molar teeth.
 - 10% of third-grade children need **urgent** dental care.
 - **Dental Visits Among Mississippi Adults** – The Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System is a random sample telephone survey of the adult (18 years of age and older) civilian non-institutionalized population in the state.
 - In 2008, 2 in 5 (40.5%) of respondents reported that they have not seen a dentist within the last twelve months. In 2006, the rate was 40.2%.
 - **Oral Health of Pregnant Women** – The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a joint project between the MSDH and the CDC to find out why some babies are born healthy and others are not.
 - Among all women, 34.1% were talked to by a dental or health care worker regarding how to care for their teeth and gums during pregnancy.
- **Develop plans and policies through collaborative process that support individual and community oral health efforts to address oral health needs.**
 - **Community Water Fluoridation Requirement** – In 2009, the State Board of Health passed a regulation to require community water fluoridation for systems serving a population of at least 2,000.
 - No system shall be required to comply unless sufficient funds are identified by the Health Department (i.e. appropriations, capital outlay, grants or similar means or sources of funds).
 - **State Oral Health Plan (2006-2011)** – The state oral health plan can be accessed under “Reports” at <http://www.healthymississippi.com/dental>.
 - **Mississippi Oral Health Community Alliance (MOHCA)** – Information about the statewide oral health coalition can be accessed at <http://www.HealthyMS.com/MOHCA>. Organizations are encouraged to join.
- **Link people to population-based oral health services and assure the availability, access and acceptability of these services.**
 - **Community Water Fluoridation** – The program provides funds to communities to establish new water fluoridation programs through the assistance of the Bower Foundation and federal Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.
 - As of June 2009, 54.6% of Mississippi’s total population on public water receives the benefits of fluoridated water but 45.4% of the population does not.
 - Since 2003, 64 public water systems have agreed to start water fluoridation programs that serve over 270,000 people.

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- **The following water systems by county are presently on a waiting list to receive funding:**

Yazoo -Central Yazoo, Lake City	Leake -Marydell
Rankin -Evergreen	Jones -Southwest Jones
Scott - L&F	Perry -NE Perry
Alcorn - Town of Kossuth	Lawrence - Lawrence County
Chickasaw - City of Okolona, Sparta	Harrison -Naval Construction Battal
Calhoun - Town of Derma	
- **Oral Health Screenings** – The program provides age appropriate oral health assessments, anticipatory guidance instruction, and oral health education statewide.
 - In FY 2009, about 5,248 Mississippians received an oral health screening.
 - In first six months of FY 2010, 3,369 oral health screenings were conducted.
- **Oral Health Education** – In FY 2009, 379 oral health education programs were held in community-based settings statewide.
 - In first six months of FY 2010, 6,070 participants received oral health education.
 - MSDH is offering a new oral health curriculum to dental study clubs titled *Cavity Free Kids* (CFK), a train-the-trainer program designed especially for child caregivers. Continuing education credit will be provided to dental study clubs who are interested in participating.
- **School-Based Preventive Dental Sealants** – Since 2004, 22,140 sealants have been placed on permanent first molar teeth in 6,912 second-grade children in nine counties in Public Health District III and Issaquena/Sharkey counties.
 - Sealants are provided at no cost to children via a statewide partnership with Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- **Preventive Fluoride Varnish program for Head Start** – Fluoride varnish applications are provided as a decay prevention measure for children in Head Start programs.
 - In FY 2009, 3,400 children age three to five years received an oral health screening and fluoride varnish.
- **Dental Corrections Program** – The program provides funds for children who have severe dental problems and no other source of dental coverage, including Medicaid, SCHIP, or private insurance coverage.
- **VIPR (Volunteers in Preparedness Registry)**– The MSDH Office of Emergency Planning and Response seeks dental personnel as volunteers to work in emergency response in the event of a disaster or public health emergency to ensure dental needs of Mississippians are met. We need your help today! Registration sheets are available on the web at <http://volunteer.msdh.state.ms.us> or call 1-866-HLTHY4U for more information.
 - CME opportunities are available for dental study clubs thru VIPR. Contact MSDH at (601) 576-7500 for more information.

For more information about the State Oral Health Program, visit our web page at www.healthyMS.com/dental or call (601) 576-7500